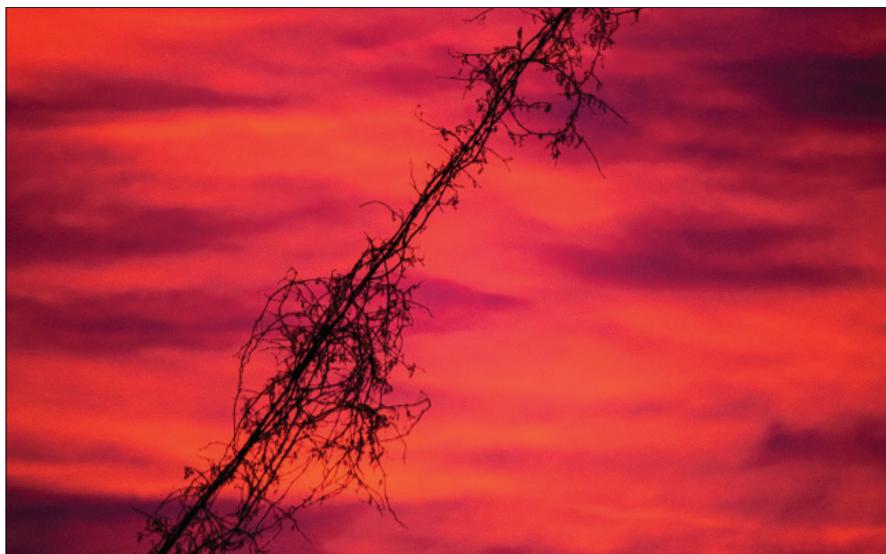




## YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



"Sunrise," by Lauren McCabe, 15, South Burlington

## Gone

As you left my arms,  
you floated away to a different place.  
It hurt my heart,  
it dug down deep to my soul.  
The shock came when I woke up  
and you weren't right next to me.  
You left this world without a say.  
I wish it was a dream, because the pain  
I feel right now is unexplainable.  
You're in a better place,  
but this is unexplainable.  
It hurt to see you go, but it feels  
even worse now  
not to have you by my side,  
and not seeing you bark at cars  
when they pull in the driveway.  
The house is so quiet without  
you to make it loud.  
I still have your soft, pink blanket  
next to the window that was  
your favorite spot, because I can't  
make my body move it somewhere else.  
I buried you next to the duck pen  
because that was where  
I always found you when I went outside.  
I still sleep with my body curved,  
thinking I'm going to push you  
off my bed.  
I miss you and I love you, Dusty.

– NATALIA TARBELL, 11,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

## New York, 2056

The dense fog swirls soundlessly  
around the towering buildings of Times  
Square. My body feels heavy, having  
gotten little sleep for several nights.  
My mind is foggy and clouded but my  
senses are bursting: I can hear the faint  
ringing of a dog barking in the distance,  
a slight crunch as my foot lands upon  
the frosty ground, harmonic birds  
chirping like a choir as the sun rises  
from the tops of the buildings.

Slowly I rise, greeted by a familiar  
face of pointy ears, huge fangs, brown  
eyes, and smooth, brown-and-black fur.  
Though I struggle to move any muscles,  
I gather enough strength to pull on  
a withered tennis ball drenched in  
slobber.

– CEDAR HANLON, 13,  
NORTH CHITTENDEN

## Messy

Look at me, I'm a mess.  
I have dirt all on my dress.  
How could this be? Hmm, I  
wish someone would tell me.  
Sitting at the table, all upset.  
Who could have done this?  
Oh, what a pest. Now it's time  
to go in and wash up. Let me be  
to read my book.

– JENNAFYR PATTERSON, 14,  
CUTTINGSVILLE

## Haikus

*Me*

I am green and blue.  
Ten spikes down my back and tail.  
White, sharp, pearly teeth.

*Monster*

There is a *monster*.  
There's a monster in my *room*.  
He thinks *he's* the boss?

– ELENA MACIAS, 10,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

## Mushrooms

An "abecedarian" snippet

*Amanita*. Poisonous.  
*Bracket fungi*. Most are poisonous.  
*Chanterelle*. Edible.  
*Destroying angel*. Very poisonous.  
*Enoki*. Edible.  
*Fistulina hepatica*. Edible.  
*Galerina marginata*. Poisonous.  
*Hedgehog*. Edible.  
*Ivory funnel*. Potentially deadly...

– EDA MAE FIORETTI, 11,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

For the rest of tonight's salad, visit  
[youngwritersproject.org/node/43734](http://youngwritersproject.org/node/43734)

## Being purple

Purple is the color of lilacs and violets.  
Purple is the color of the morning  
before the sun.  
Purple is the color of shadows at night.  
Purple is the color of mountains in fog.  
I feel the color of purple, of royalty,  
like a queen in a kingdom  
of citizens that honor their loyalty.  
Purple is the color of galaxies.  
Purple is the color of nostalgic feelings  
for my old home in Virginia.  
I feel like the color of feminine energy.  
I feel like the color of creativity.  
I want the world to be purple,  
the color of diversity.  
I feel *purple*.

– CORA RUDISILL, 11, SHREWSBURY

## ABOUT YWP

**HOW TO JOIN:** Young Writers Project (YWP) welcomes teens, ages 13-18, to join our free, online community of writers and visual artists. Youth who are 12 may join YWP with parental permission. Teachers are also invited to join to submit work on behalf of younger students for publication. To join or for more information, go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).

**HOW TO SUPPORT:** Young Writers Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies solely on grants and donations for support. If you enjoy this monthly feature, please consider donating online at [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)/support. Or mail your gift to YWP, 47 Maple St., Suite 216, Burlington, VT 05401. Contact Susan Reid, Executive Director, [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org). (802) 324-9538.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

*Everything's Waiting For You!*



DOWNTOWN SUITES

*Your home office away from home*

Individual Office Suites with high speed fiber, access to conference rooms and kitchenettes.  
Locations throughout downtown Rutland. Contact mkf properties at 802-236-4712 or [mfoley@mkfpropertiesvt.com](mailto:mfoley@mkfpropertiesvt.com)